properly distributing the money which is due to the Siemens. What went wrong? ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing went wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)... In a Government system, we have to have a ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री शरद यादव: ये जवाब क्या दे रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: सर, बैंकों का पैसा ...(व्यवधान)... चार साल हो गए हैं ...(व्यवधान)... ये कहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

†[شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، بینکوں کا فیصلہ.....مداخلت.....چار سال ہو گئے ہیں.....مداخلت..... یہ کہتے ہیں.....مداخلت.....]

श्री सभापति: बैठिए, बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज टेक यौर सीट ...(व्यवधान)... मैं इस मामले की जितनी भी रिपोर्ट्स हैं, उन्हें देखकर सरकार से बात करुंगा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: समापति जी, यह एक साल की बात नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)...

†[شری شاہد صدیقی : سبھاپتی جی، یہ ایک سال کی بات نہیں ہے.....مداخلت.....]

श्री सभापति: मैं एक साल की बात नहीं कर रहा ...(व्यवधान)... आप कह रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)... इस संबंध में ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I am not telling this Minister. When I was the Chairman three years back, it was Rs. 92 crores. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: वर्कर का मामला आता है ...(व्यवधान)...92 करोड़ नहीं मिलता है ...(व्यवधान)...वर्कर का पैसा होता है तो सरकार के पास पैसा नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)...92 करोड़ नहीं हैं सरकार के पास ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: *I will look into the matter and do whatever I can do.*

Amendment of Telegraph Act

*225. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Telegraph Act, so that, the legal provision is more stringent for grey market operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at present the crime is non-cognisable and bailable;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance the penalty;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether national loss amounting to Rs. 400 crores is being caused by grey market operators in the country since 1998;

(g) if so, the details of such losses, State-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by Government to prevent such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (h) A proposal to amend the India Telegraph Act for enhancing the penalities and making legal provisions more stringent for grey market operators is being contemplated by the Government. At present the crime is non-cognizable and bailable. As per available data, the estimated notional loss of around Rs. 458 crores has been caused as per the details given below:-

Sl. No.	State	Approximate Loss of Rs.
1	Uttar Pradesh	5.00 Crores
2	Tamil Nadu	36.00 Crores
3	Rajasthan	0.5 Crores
4	Punjab	0.5 Crores
5	Delhi	120 Crores
6	Maharashtra	170 Crores
7	Kerala	4.00 Crores
8	Karnataka	35.00 Crores
9	Haryana	5.00 Crores
10	Gujarat	15.00 Crores
11	Andhra Pradesh	60.00 Crores
12	West Bengal	7.00 Crores

Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk telephones and monitoring the calls traffic and in certain cases hightech equipment has been seized by the security agencies. It is a continuous process. Instructions have been issued to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups apart from setting up of dedicated CBI cells in four metros. Further, Vigilance and

Telecom Monitoring cells were created in October, 2004 at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Channai for curbing such grey market operations. Advertisments were given in the leading newspapers for creating awareness among the public and the toll free public numbering 1600-110-420 have been opened for reporting such illegal activities.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: It is accepted by the hon. Minister that there is a loss of Rs.458 crores by virtue of grey market operations and that, at present, the crime is non-cognizable and bailable. The hon. Minister has also stated in his answer that there is a proposal to amend the Indian Telegraphs Act. What is the time-frame and what are the stringent measures proposed in the amendment to control these illegal activities?

डा॰ शकील अहमद: सभापति महोदय, जो एक्ट अभी है, यह 1885 का एक्ट है। जो पिछली शताब्दी में लगभग पंद्रह-सोलह बार अमेंड हुआ है। मैं निश्चित रूप से बताना चाहता हूं कि प्रश्न का मूल यह है कि ग्रे मार्किट हम उसे कहते हैं, जहां क्राइम हुआ हो, जैसे किसी ने किसी एक्सचेंज से, किसी सर्विस प्रोवाइडर से लाइन ली और लाइन लेने के बाद उसमें अपना कुछ टेक्नीकल इस्तेमाल करके गलत बिजनेस करने लगा, पैसा कमाने लगा। इससे गवर्नमेंट को नोशनल लोस 1998 से 458 करोड़ हुआ है। इसी को रोकने के लिए हमने सजा बढ़ाने का प्रावधान रखा है। इससे पहले यह व्यवस्था थी कि सिर्फ वायरलैस का उल्लंघन करने को ही ऑफेंस माना जाता था, लेकिन हम लोगों ने इसमें लैण्ड लाइन को भी शामिल किया है। सजाएं बढ़ाने की बात भी हमने की है कि ये सजाएं दो साल, तीन साल से लेकर पांच साल तक बढ़ाई जाएं। यह सब करके हम इसे और सख्त बनाना चाहते हैं।

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, since there is a loss of Rs. 458 crores in 12 States, what are the steps taken to recover the money? How cases have been filed? How many people have been prosecuted? Sir, what is the status of those cases?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, the number of FIRs filed is 225 and the number of persons arrested is around 200. All these cases are in the courts, and, we are waiting for the decision of the courts.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, he has not stated about the recovery part.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, after the decision of the courts ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, since, Rs. 458 crore is not a small money, I would like ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that the matter is pending in the court.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would like to express thanks to the Minister for the efforts taken by him. I would like to ask whether the trend of this kind of grey operations is on the increase or on the decrease. This is number one. Secondly, Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only number one. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, this is very important. Sir, I am told that this trend of grey operations are on the increase due to the consent and the connivance of the telephone department, particularly, the lower down employees. Is it true, and, if so, what is the action taken, how many of such cases have come to your notice?

डॉ॰ शकील अहमद: सभापति जी, कोई teady growth या decline नहीं है। मैं year-wise आंकड़े बता देता हूं:- In 1998-99, it was 9; 1999-2000, it was 10; in 2000-01, it was 29; in 2001-02 it went up to 56. After that in 2002-03 it came down to 46, then, it came down to 32. In 2004-05, it increased to 94; but, this year, up till now, it is only 40. We are trying our best to check this menace of grey market, and, the Government will take any action and every action to prevent this type of things.

Upgradation of road Near Gujarat

*226. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat are not upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intends to upgrade the roads and in what time frame?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.